

hard to achieve them makes him a shining example that other children can aspire to.

U.S. ARMY RESERVE RETURNS TO LIFE-SAVING AIR AMBULANCE MISSION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, with the delivery of the first two HH-60 Blackhawk helicopters this past Saturday to F Company, 1st Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport in Florida, the U.S. Army Reserve is preparing to resume its life-saving air evacuation mission.

Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, the Chief of the Army Reserve, and I joined in ceremonies to accept the delivery of the first of the 12 helicopters that will be assigned to this unit, which officially stands up its operations this September. The Army Reserve stopped flying air evacuation missions in 1993, but General Stultz, realizing the tremendous demand for these operations throughout the world, made it a priority to reestablish this capability.

Given the advancements of armored vehicles, body armor, and medical care administered in the field, we are able to save the lives of servicemembers who in prior conflicts would have died. With the state-of-the-art helicopters like those we received Saturday, we are saving lives and getting those injured men and women to field hospitals quicker than ever so they can receive the care they need and they so richly deserve.

The HH-60 air ambulance helicopters are emergency rooms in the air. They are equipped with the finest possible medical systems to provide critical care for up to six patients. These systems include an electronic patient litter system, on-board oxygen generation system, medical suction system, patient monitors and high intensity night vision goggle compatible lighting.

The aircraft are also equipped with the most advanced avionics and special mission systems to assist the crew in locating and rescuing injured personnel on the battlefield. These include forward looking infrared (FLIR) systems and an external rescue hoist to quickly raise and lower patients and rescue personnel. In addition, the new HH-60s have additional payload and range to allow them to carry more patients and fly longer distances without refueling.

The men and women who fly these missions as pilots, flight engineers, and medics are the best our Nation has to offer. We owe them the finest equipment to perform their mission safely and securely, but the machinery and technology means nothing if we did not have the people willing to fly into harm's way to save a fellow American.

The MEDEVAC crews are defenseless in flying their machines. They have no defensive systems on board and they often fly unaccompanied and must land under hostile fire to pick up their patients. As I said Saturday, it takes a special person to perform this mission and to perform it so well.

They fly with the same spirit as one of the legendary MEDEVAC pilots, Major Charles

"Combat" Kelly, who died while flying a mission in Vietnam in 1964. He coined what is now the motto for all MEDEVAC crews: "No compromise. No rationalization. No hesitation. Fly the mission. Now!"

Madam Speaker, let us take time today to honor the MEDEVAC crews that have brought home so many of our heroes to their families and friends. It is my distinct honor to have the privilege to represent the newly formed F Company in Pinellas County, Florida, and I look forward to being with the unit when it officially stands up later this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to make the following votes yesterday because of a developing crisis in Iowa's 1st Congressional District. Massive flooding is leading to evacuations and it is only expected to get worse. Although I realize how important it is to cast votes in Washington, the well-being of my constituents comes first, and I need to be in the District to assist in any way I can.

On Rollcall 394, H. Res. 1063, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall 395, H. Con. Res. 318, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall 396, H. Con. Res. 336, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Goodwill Industries of San Antonio, Texas, in its mission of helping change lives through their participation in the AbilityOne Program. In the city of San Antonio, Goodwill has a strong presence, providing over \$15,000,000 of services in document management, administration, and custodial maintenance through the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program provides employment opportunities to those with disabilities.

The AbilityOne Program got its beginning in 1938 in legislation known as the Wagner-O'Day Act, passed by President Roosevelt, which provided employment opportunities for the blind. In 1971, the program was redesignated as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day, JWOD, Program due to the work of Senator Jacob Javits in expanding the program to include people with disabilities and allowing the program to provide services to the Federal Government. Goodwill Industries of San Antonio was the first agency in the Nation to take on a contract provided by the JWOD Program shortly after its expansion in 1971, and continues to do so through the AbilityOne Program today.

Currently, Goodwill employs over 300 people in 40 diverse commercial, Federal and State contracts. Goodwill is the fourth largest contract services provider in the Nation, amongst 170 other Goodwill locations. Its history of success and development of working relationships has earned Goodwill a 90 percent satisfaction rating for multiple years with their customers. I am proud that the employment of people with disabilities has played a large role in the operation of Goodwill Industries in San Antonio, Texas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the commitment of Goodwill Industries of San Antonio to ensuring the employment of those with disabilities through the AbilityOne Program.

NEW ERA OF REFORM IN MALAYSIA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to significant political developments in Southeast Asia. Malaysia, which recently held major elections, is embarking on a new set of democratic reforms to deal with some of the serious problems that the country faces. I am pleased to see that Malaysia is moving toward reforms that would support the rule of law and a more open society.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has announced a series of initiatives that would help demonstrate Malaysia's commitment to government reform and to moderate and progressive principles of democracy. The actions respond to the call for reform issued by voters in the March 8 elections.

The Malaysian government has proposed a series of judicial reforms to strengthen the independence of judges and improve trust and respect for the Malaysian judicial system, and steps to fight corruption. The government plans to take steps that would provide greater press freedoms as well.

Malaysia is a moderate country of 25 million people in Southeast Asia with a dominant Muslim population. The country is of significant importance to the United States and our interests in the region. Democratic development in Malaysia is important not only to the political stability and economic growth of Southeast Asia but the fight against extremism.

I would like to submit for the RECORD and for the benefit of my colleagues an editorial by the Wall Street Journal Asia that comments on these reforms.

In closing, I encourage my colleagues to take notice of recent developments in Malaysia and to support the government as it works to implement democratic reforms that could benefit Malaysia and help support U.S. interests.

[From The Wall Street Journal, Apr. 24, 2008]

REFORMING MALAYSIA

Malaysia's economy has long been open to competition, but its political system has not. Last month's opposition-party electoral victories changed all that. Now, Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has started to compete for voters' hearts, based on what the people want.